



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

General Services Conference Room
Andrew Johnson Tower, First Floor
Thursday, February 23, 2006
1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Marti Herndon, Acting Chair
Nathasha Blackshear
Susan Lawless-Glassman
Diane Neighbors
Sue Pilson
Colonel J. A. Robbins

Committee Members Absent

Tim Goldsmith, Chair
Michelle Crowley
Barbara Holden
Trudy Hughes
Charles Hutchins
Nancy Williams
Jo Ann Yates

Staff Present

Pat Wade, CPORT Director
Michael Cash
Susan Cope
Linda Copeland
Fay Delk
Amber Dixon
Peggy Haynes
Pam Kirkpatrick
Rosamond McLeod
Sukti Maldas
James Moore
Rachel Sharp
Sheryl Sweat

Marti Herndon, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m.

I. Approval of October Minutes

Because committee members needed to read the minutes the Committee decided to defer the approval of the October minutes to the next meeting.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (NEIGHBORS) AND SECONDED (LAWLESS-GLASSMAN) TO DEFER APPROVAL OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

II. Ombudsman Update – Michael Cash

Cash reviewed the Ombudsman annual and quarterly reports correcting the date on the annual Caseload Demographics report to 01/01/04-12/31/05 and gave a brief overview of Ombudsman activities since the last Committee meeting stating they had received 32 cases. He also:

- ✓ Talked about the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program grant and its goals.
- ✓ Has been attending Child and Family Team meetings.
- ✓ Gave follow-up on the U.S. Ombudsman Association (USOA) Conference
- ✓ Reported that the new Ombudsman brochure has been completed and distributed.

III. Youth Excellence Award – Pat Wade

TCCY Chair Cindy Durham appointed Colonel J. A. Robbins as the Chair of the Youth Excellence Award Committee. Committee will meet to select a nominee for the award.

IV. CPORT Update (YDC Reports) – Pat Wade

Wade stated this agenda item was requested by Committee Chair, Tim Goldsmith, due to the recent media coverage related to the CPORT review of children placed at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center. Wade and other CPORT staff discussed some of the issues related to security, staff respect, gang behavior, and the lack of legal representation for children in juvenile justice. CPORT staff expressed concern for children who generally waive their rights at the court hearing and do not know what their rights are and often do not have legal representation.

V. DCS Collaboration Update – Pat Wade

Wade gave an update on the CPORT/DCS collaboration. Reviews have been completed in seven regions. Continue to make revisions to the protocol as the goal is for TCCY and DCS to use a common tool for the DCS internal review and the TCCY external review. The review cycle for this year is expected to end in May. Plans for the next review cycle and the external review process are yet to be decided.

VI. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) – Linda O’Neal

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Update, Information and Recommendation handout was distributed.

Committee discussed the need for CASA programs that serve multiple counties to have board members representing each county served.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (NEIGHBORS) AND SECONDED (ROBBINS) THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE COMMISSION APPROVE THAT EFFECTIVE WITH THE CONTRACTS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, EACH COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM SERVING MULTIPLE COUNTIES MUST HAVE ONE OR MORE BOARD MEMBER(S) FROM EVERY COUNTY SERVED. NOTICE OF THIS REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO ALL CASA PROGRAMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

TCCY Chair Cindy Durham spoke in favor of expansion of the CASA programs. The CASA funds (\$15,000) in some counties are the core around which they raise funds.

Committee discussed election of judges, issues in rural counties and the number of children in custody it takes to get a CASA program. They also discussed the need for Commission guidance.

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (NEIGHBORS) AND SECONDED (SUSAN LAWLESS-GLASSMAN) THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMISSION ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **TCCY AND THE TENNESSEE CASA ASSOCIATION SHOULD JOINTLY DEVELOP A PLAN FOR EXPANSION OF CASA PROGRAMS STATEWIDE, WITH TNCASA PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE AN EXPLANATION OF THE ROLE OF TNCASA.**
 - **THE TENNESSEE CASA ASSOCIATION SHOULD HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECOMMENDING THE ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDING FOR CASA PROGRAMS AND SHOULD COMMUNICATE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO TCCY.**
 - **TCCY STAFF WILL ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CASA PROGRAMS IN UNSERVED COUNTIES, BUT THE TENNESSEE CASA ASSOCIATION SHOULD HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL CASA PROGRAMS.**
- UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

VII. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Request – Linda O’Neal

Committee discussed the request from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tennessee for Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis of services and supports to adults with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) and Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED).

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (NEIGHBORS) AND SECONDED (BLACKSHEAR) THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE COMMISSION SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TENNESSEE RESOLUTION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL ANALYSIS OF SERVICES

AND SUPPORTS TO ADULTS WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS (SPMI) AND CHILDREN WITH SERIOUS EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE (SED). CARRIED.

Durham declared a conflict of interest.

VIII. Other Business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by

Pat Wade
CPORT Director

Minutes approved by:

Marti Herndon, Acting Chair
Children's Services Committee